

## House Republican Press Release

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### **Rep. Farr Measure Deletes Vehicle Idling Infraction From Clean Air Bill**



Should state and local police be diverted from critical law enforcement missions such as preventing violent crime and cracking down on drunk driving by the need to ticket motorists who allow their cars to idle for more than three minutes?

Members of the General Assembly's Judiciary Committee Tuesday agreed that police should focus their efforts on deterring criminal activities that seriously threaten public safety when they supported a measure offered by state Representative Bob Farr, R-19<sup>th</sup> District, to kill a proposal that would have made allowing motor vehicle engines to idle for more than three minutes an infraction punishable by fines of up to \$90 for each offense

"This measure would have put another law on the books that could have distracted police from the performance of their primary mission – deterring serious crimes and apprehending the criminals who perpetrate them," Representative Farr said. "In addition, police officers on patrol in our large urban centers, where serious criminal offenses are a common occurrence, would have been unable to enforce this measure consistently enough for it to have been much of a deterrent."

"Enforcement would have been arbitrary at best and would have penalized many law-abiding citizens who simply lost track of time while talking with friends or family members while stopped by the side of the road or in a parking lot," Representative Farr said. "The proposal also would have prohibited homeowners who were mowing their lawns from letting their power mowers idle for more than three minutes. It is simply absurd to ticket individuals who leave their lawnmowers running while they answer a telephone call. Police have more serious matters to deal with and should be focusing their efforts on them."

Judiciary Committee members supported an amendment Representative Farr offered to delete the engine idling proposal from a clean air bill (House Bill 6773) they were considering at a meeting Tuesday.